

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 111

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 32

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 111—Relative to the California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 22, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 111, Cardoza. California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway.

This measure would dedicate a specified portion of State Highway 99 to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., and would specify that this portion of State Highway 99 shall be known as the "CHP Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway." The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect appropriate plaques and markers.

WHEREAS, State Traffic Officer James John Schumacher, Jr., of the California Highway Patrol, was killed while in the line of duty, early on the morning of June 13, 1981, on Highway 99 approximately four miles south of Merced; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher had just finished writing a speeding ticket and was standing approximately four feet off the highway while obtaining the ticketed driver's signature and warning the ticketed driver to be careful pulling out onto the highway, when he was struck by another car driven at a high rate of speed by a driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher died instantly from massive injuries to his head and body; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was a graduate of Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento, before attending Golden West College and then serving in the United States Army, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher graduated from the Academy and was appointed to the California Highway Patrol on May 19, 1969; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was an admired and respected 12-year veteran of the California Highway Patrol, having served in the South Los Angeles, Westminister, and Merced areas; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher had many close friends in the California Highway Patrol, who were shocked and saddened by the loss of their fellow officer, a tragedy made worse by the theft of Officer Schumacher's badge from the scene of the accident by a bystander—it being the tradition of the California Highway Patrol since its inception, to memorialize a fallen officer by presenting his or her badge to the officer's family; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was only 33 years of age at the time of his death and was survived by his wife, Roberta, and their sons, James, then aged 9, and Andrew, then aged 7, his parents, three sisters, and two brothers, one of whom was a fellow officer in the California Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher died only five miles north from where California Highway Patrol Officer Al Johnson died, when he was struck by a drunk driver while writing out a ticket, in August of 1972; and

WHEREAS, This tragic accident continues to live in the memory of the law enforcement community, local residents of Merced County, and citizens throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the sacrifice of this young man, killed in the line of duty, be remembered on a highway memorializing his dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Officer Schumacher to name the portion of State Highway Route 99, between Athlone Road and Worden Avenue, as the "CHP Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway"; and

WHEREAS, This memorial highway will continue to remind us of the sacrifices California Highway Patrol and other peace officers make on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby dedicates that portion of State Highway Route 99, between Athlone Road and Worden Avenue, in Merced County, to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr.; and be it further

Resolved, That State Highway Route 99, between Athlone Road and Worden Avenue, in Merced County, be officially dedicated the "CHP Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further



Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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